

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).
2. (previously presented): A photography system comprising:
a photography device for taking photographs of photographic objects and acquiring image information; and
a portable data processing device formed separately from the photography device for encoding and storing the image information acquired by the photography device, wherein the photography device includes image information transmission means that directly transmits the acquired image information to the data processing device directly;
wherein the photography device has identification information unique to the photography device and the image information transmission means has a function to transmit the identification information in association with the acquired image information to a plurality of data processing devices, wherein each of the data processing devices operate independently of each other.
3. (previously presented): A photography system comprising:
a photography device for taking photographs of photographic objects and acquiring image information; and

a portable data processing device formed separately from the photography device for encoding and storing the image information acquired by the photography device, wherein the photography device includes image information transmission means that directly transmits the acquired image information to the data processing device directly;

wherein the data processing device receives the image information from a plurality of photography devices and received image selection means selects the image information to be received according to unique identification information allocated to said each photography device, transmitted from the image information transmission means, wherein each of the photography devices operate independently of each other.

4. (previously presented): A photography system comprising:

a photography device for taking photographs of photographic objects and acquiring image information; and

a portable data processing device formed separately from the photography device for encoding and storing the image information acquired by the photography device, wherein the photography device includes image information transmission means that directly transmits the acquired image information to the data processing device directly;

wherein the photography device has identification information unique to the photography device and the image information transmission means has a function to transmit the identification information to a plurality of data processing devices, and

the data processing device receives the image information from the plurality of photography devices and further comprises received image selection means that selects the image information according to the unique identification information allocated to said each

photography device, transmitted from the image information transmission means, wherein each of the photography devices operate independently of each other.

5. (original): The photography system according to claim 2,
wherein the data processing device classifies the encoded image information for each piece of the identification information, and stores the classified encoded image information in the storage means.

6. (original): The photography system according to claim 3,
wherein the data processing device classifies the encoded image information for each piece of the identification information, and stores the classified encoded image information in the storage means.

7. (original): The photography system according to claim 4,
wherein the data processing device classifies the encoded image information for each piece of the identification information, and stores the classified encoded image information in the storage means.

8. (original): The photography system according to claim 5,
wherein the image processing means has correction conditions for correcting the image information for each of a plurality of sets of photography devices.

9. (original): The photography system according to claim 5,

wherein the image processing means has a function to encrypt the image information and store the encrypted image information in the storage means.

10. (previously presented): The photography system according to claim 2, wherein the data processing device has a data transmission means for transmitting data to an external device.

11. (previously presented): The photography system according to claim 2, wherein the photography device is fixed to a specific location to be photographed.

12. (previously presented): The photography system according to claim 3, wherein the image information transmission means transmits the unique identification information in association with the acquired image information.

13. (previously presented): The photography system according to claim 4, wherein the image information transmission means transmits the unique identification information in association with the acquired image information.

14. (new): The photography system according to claim 2, wherein the image information transmission means concurrently transmits the identification information in association with the acquired image information to the plurality of data processing devices.

15. (new): The photography system according to claim 3, wherein the data processing device is programmable to add photography devices to the plurality of photography devices or delete photography devices from the plurality of photography devices, from which the image information is received.

16. (new): The photography system according to claim 2, wherein the photography device includes a photography condition acquiring means which acquires photography conditions of the image information at a time of photography and which transmits the acquired photography conditions to the data processing device, and

wherein the data processing device includes an image processing means comprising:

a database which stores reference image information associated with previously photographed images;

a reference image information retrieving means which retrieves reference image information most similar to the image information from the database based on the acquired photography conditions of the image information and acquired photography conditions of previously photographed images; and

a difference calculation means which calculates a difference between the reference image information retrieved by the reference image information retrieving means and the image information.

17. (new): The photography system according to claim 16, wherein the photography conditions comprises the time of photography.

18. (new): The photography system according to claim 16, wherein the reference image information associated with previously photographed images is subjected to image processing before the image information is acquired by the photography device.

19. (new): The photography system according to claim 16, wherein the image processing means further comprises an encoding means which encodes the difference calculated by the difference calculation means.

20. (new): The photography system according to claim 16, wherein the image information and the reference image information associated with previously photographed images are divided into a plurality of image blocks, and
wherein the difference calculation means calculates a difference between each image block of the reference image information and each image block of the image information.

21. (new): The photography system according to claim 2, wherein the data processing device includes a photography aiding means which issues a warning to a user based on a determination that a photograph was captured in a poor photographic state.

22. (new): The photography system according to claim 21, wherein the photography device includes a photography condition acquiring means which acquires photography conditions at a time of photography of the image information, which detects a direction of photography of the photography device, and which transmits the acquired photography conditions to the data processing device, and

wherein the photography aiding means comprises:

a database which stores reference image information associated with previously photographed images;

a reference image information retrieving means, which retrieves reference image information most similar to the image information from the database based on the acquired photography conditions of the image information and acquired photography conditions of previously photographed images;

an image comparison means which compares the reference image information retrieved by the reference image information retrieving means to the image information to detect a part of the image information which matches a part of the retrieved reference image information;

a main object detecting means which detects a main object in the image information based on the detected match and which analyzes the main object based on the position information and the direction of photography of the photography device;

a main photographic object analyzing means which analyses a photography state of the main object and which compares an image quality of the main object with an image quality of a main object of the reference image information to obtain a comparison result; and

an error processing means which determines whether or not an error exists in the photography state based on the comparison result.

23. (new): The photography system according to claim 22, wherein the reference image information retrieving means acquires position information, which indicates a

geographical position of the photography device, from the photography device, and which retrieves reference image information most similar to the image information from the database based on the acquired photography conditions of the image information, the acquired position information, and the acquired photography conditions of previously photographed images.

24. (new): A method of processing image information in a photography system having a photography device and a plurality of data processing devices, the method comprising:
obtaining image information from an image photographed by the photography device, photography condition information from the photography device at a time of photographing the image, and geographical position information from an external device connected to the data processing device, wherein the photography device has identification information unique to the photography device;

transmitting the obtained image information, photography condition information, and geographical position information directly to the plurality of data processing devices, wherein each of the data processing devices operate independently of each other; and

determining whether an error exists in the image by comparing the transmitted information to reference image information of previously photographed images most similar to the image.